

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to all of the claims now in the application, (i.e., claims 14-17, 19 and 21-28) is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowability of claims 15-17, 19, 21-25, 27 and 28. By this amendment, claim 15 has been rewritten as it did not accurately encompass Applicant's invention. Specifically, Applicant has amended independent claim 15 to remove the provision that the band passes through the multiport body and has replaced it with the provision that the band enters the multiport body as seen in Figs. 1 and 2. Moreover, claim 15 has been amended to better define the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2 wherein regions of the body against which the respective strap ends are anchored project from the body's limb contacting bottom surface so as to lift the body-adjacent strap portions, in use, from the encircled limb as the strap regions enter the body (see also pg. 3, lines 1-4 and 14-17 of the specification). As discussed herein below, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, either applied alone or in combination disclose or suggest the invention as presently claimed.

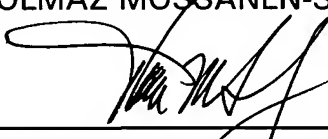
With respect to the § 102 rejection of claims 14 and 26, while Dillon discloses an apparatus for collecting blood, it does not disclose the provision that the strap holds the bottom surface of the multiport body against the surface of the user's body part,

as presently set forth in claim 14. In an effort to clarify that the multiport body is held against the user's body part, Applicant has amended claim 14 to state that the band holds the multiport body directly against the surface of the user's body part. Dillon does not disclose or suggest the multiport body being held directly against the surface of the user's body. As seen in Figure 1 of Dillon, the device is attached to a strap and the strap lies between the multiport body and the user's arm. Furthermore, Dillon does not show portions of the strap adjacent the multiport body being lifted from the extended limb as set forth in amended independent claim 15.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 14-17 and 21-28 at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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